

This comment regards the deployment of broadband technology in the United States

When the Telecom Reform Act was passed, I was extremely excited that the sorts of benefits to consumers that have come about due to competition in long distance service would come to the local loop. Those hopes were dashed due to our government's unwillingness to hold the ILECs' feet to the fire. Now the big money has killed off all the CLECs, to the detriment of our marketplace.

DSL prices have dropped in nearly every industrialized country, but they have risen in the United States despite widespread deployment and companies' ability to make money with these new services. What we need is real competition in this marketplace in order to provide higher-quality and lower-cost services to the consumer, and this does not mean merely DSL vs. Cable vs. Sattelite choices.

I would strongly urge the FCC and congress to stand up to the big money interests and renew the push for OSS parity in local sevice, and to extend this to DSL services. Despite the ILECs' protestations, they *can* do this, they are just choosing not to, and our goverment is letting them get away with this. Moreover, despite the fact that nearly everyone knows that the ILECs are gouging other ISPs by artificially raising the costs for them to provide the connection and artificially lowering the costs to provide a competitive ISP service, nobody is calling them on it, and so this would continue. This is clearly anti-competetive and and illegal use of monopoly power. Something should be done about this. Of course, these requirements should not be restricted to DSL providers, the cable companies should be held to the same standards.

Bottom line: Prices will drop and quality of service will rise if real competition is introduced into the broadband marketplace. The only organization that can do this is the federal goverment led by the FCC. I would encourage the FCC to get off the sidelines and lead the charge to fair, open competition in the broadband marketplace.

By the way, I really wish forms like these would be implemented without requiring the use of JavaScript, which is intrusive and insecure.